

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20508

USTR Press Releases are available on the USTR home page at WWW.USTR.GOV.
They are also available through the USTR Fax Retrieval System at 202-395-4809.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, June 27, 1997

Contact: 97-61
Jay Ziegler
Kirsten Powers
Christine Wilkas
(202) 395-3230

**BARSHEFSKY HAILS SIGNING OF
U.S.-VIETNAM COPYRIGHT AGREEMENT**

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky hailed the signing today of an agreement establishing copyright relations between the United States and Vietnam. The agreement was signed in Hanoi, Vietnam, by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Vietnamese officials. "This agreement, which requires copyright protection for U.S. motion pictures, sound recordings, software, and published works in Vietnam for the first time, is an important step toward ensuring effective intellectual property protection for some of our most competitive industries in this growing market," Ambassador Barshefsky said. "The effective protection of all forms of intellectual property is essential to the development of mutually beneficial commercial relations, especially in rapidly developing regions such as South East Asia."

The U.S.-Vietnam copyright agreement, in which each country will extend copyright protection to all works created in the other country or otherwise created by nationals of the other country, was negotiated by USTR and Vietnamese officials over the course of a number of months and finalized in April. It will enter into force no later than 6 months after its signing today. The United States and Vietnam continue to work on the negotiation of a bilateral trade agreement, necessary for the extension of normal or most-favored-nation trading status to Vietnam, which, among other things, will contain a more comprehensive chapter on the protection of all types of intellectual property.